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**OR**

- Fill out the short survey on the inside back page of this newsletter.
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317 W. Main St.  
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If we do not hear from you, we will assume you no longer want to receive *Idaho Employment*. It is always available online at <http://lmi.idaho.gov> under Publications.

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THANKS!

Editors, Idaho Employment



# North Central Idaho News

CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

## ECONOMIC TRENDS

The Lewiston Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in May increased to 4.8 percent from April's 4.4 percent as shown in North Central Idaho Table 1. In May 2005 the rate was 5.2 percent. Nonfarm payroll jobs in May decreased by 130 from April. The drop reflected job losses in government, professional and business services.

### SPECIAL TOPIC: Projected Employment Opportunities

Through surveys, research and analysis, Idaho Commerce & Labor has identified specific future job opportunities, including occupations that are the fastest growing, have high employment and are in high demand. These are also the occupations that are short on qualified applicants, according to employers. They include jobs emerging from new business in the region. A short list of these projected occupation opportunities are listed in North Central Idaho Table 2 on page 12. They are listed alphabetically, not according to a ranking order. A broader list of 538 occupations is available on the Idaho Commerce & Labor LMI Web site at <http://lmi.idaho.gov>.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Latah County

- By this time next year, Palouse farmers could be hauling their canola crops to the Port of Wilma to be turned into biodiesel. Wi Bio Fuels will break ground on a canola crushing plant Aug. 1 at the port on the Snake River. Virgin canola will be the main crop used to produce the biodiesel fuel. Canola seed is crushed, and oil is extracted and processed into biodiesel that can be used in most diesel engines

North Central Idaho Table 1: Lewiston MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Washington

	May 2006*	Apr 2006	May 2005	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,670	28,810	29,580	-0.5	-3.1
Unemployment	1,380	1,280	1,530	7.8	-9.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	4.4	5.2		
Total Employment	27,290	27,530	28,050	-0.9	-2.7
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	28,540	28,830	29,440	-1.0	-3.1
Unemployment	1,160	1,300	1,300	-10.8	-10.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	4.5	4.4		
Total Employment	27,380	27,530	28,140	-0.5	-2.7
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	26,730	26,860	27,320	-0.5	-2.2
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,340	4,330	4,560	0.2	-4.8
Natural Resources & Mining	190	200	170	-5.0	11.8
Construction	1,200	1,170	1,420	2.6	-15.5
Manufacturing	2,950	2,960	2,970	-0.3	-0.7
Wood Product Manufacturing	540	530	560	1.9	-3.6
Food Manufacturing	30	30	40	0.0	-25.0
Paper Manufacturing	1,100	1,110	1,130	-0.9	-2.7
Other Manufacturing	1,280	1,290	1,240	-0.8	3.2
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	22,390	22,530	22,760	-0.6	-1.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,470	5,440	5,420	0.6	0.9
Wholesale Trade	670	670	670	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	3,470	3,450	3,460	0.6	0.3
Utilities	90	90	90	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,240	1,230	1,200	0.8	3.3
Information	440	430	420	2.3	4.8
Financial Activities	1,840	1,840	1,810	0.0	1.7
Professional & Business Services	1,530	1,610	1,710	-5.0	-10.5
Education & Health Services	4,460	4,510	4,480	-1.1	-0.4
Leisure & Hospitality	2,340	2,310	2,550	1.3	-8.2
Other Services	1,120	1,110	1,120	0.9	0.0
Government Education	2,530	2,560	2,490	-1.2	1.6
Government Administration	1,920	1,990	2,040	-3.5	-5.9
Government Tribes	740	730	720	1.4	2.8

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

without modification. Farmers say the plant could help them get through a tough time. However, farmers also face the challenges of crop yields, prices and storage. Farmers need to make 13 to 15 cents per pound to make a profit. The new plant expects to offer contracted competitive prices, but crushing plants can buy Canadian canola for 8 to 10 cents per pound.

## Nez Perce and Asotin Counties

- Potlatch Corp.'s forestry management practices have earned the company the Idaho GEM Stars award, which recognizes efforts to care for the environment. Potlatch is Idaho's largest private landowner, managing 667,000 acres. The company adopted the environmental management system to protect the market value of its timber and minimize environmental impact from logging operations. Potlatch's land is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- Dr. Michael Reznicek of Lewiston quit his job as a psychiatrist at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center last year to pour his energy into his business, Data Rezolution. The new company sells computer software that trains parents to determine if their teenage children are using drugs. After struggling to get the business off the ground, Data Rezolution's Web site, <http://www.savemyteen.org>, just tipped more than 200 contacts per month. In addition, Data Rezolution landed its first large wholesale deal recently to Testmyteen.com, a Web site that sells home drug-testing supplies. Local pharmacies are another customer for Data Rezolution as the pharmacies receive a significant amount of calls from parents with questions about drug testing their teenagers, says Brian Auer, pharmacy manager of the Owl Southway in Lewiston. "We never had good advice to give them." Reznicek's software has enough information to guide parents through the process, Auer says. The Owl has started to sell drug tests but only with the software, Auer says. The growing sales are a relief for Reznicek, and the business finally turned a profit in June.
- Coleman Oil in Lewiston will be selling biodiesel blends at its retail fuel stations. The company landed a \$100,000 grant from the Idaho Department of Water Resources Energy Division that will cover about half the cost of a rail transfer, storage

and blending center. Coleman Oil already sells bio-diesel blends to wholesale customers within its market territory that extends south to Grangeville, north to Bonners Ferry, east to Kooskia and west to Yakima. The new center, a series of pipes and tanks, will allow Coleman Oil to accept biodiesel shipments from trains instead of just trucks, which should lower costs and make the fuel more popular. Biodiesel is typically about 10 to 12 cents per gallon more expensive than standard diesel fuel, even with a \$1 per gallon federal subsidy. Biodiesel blends can be used in diesel engines and heating oil furnaces with little or no modification. Coleman Oil will mix the biodiesel with regular diesel in combinations that normally will have 2 percent to 5 percent of the alternative fuel. In the future, the oil company will invest in additional infrastructure so it can sell biodiesel at its 20 to 25 retail outlets in eastern Washington, north central and northern Idaho.

- Eddie Bauer, an 85-year-old Northwest company that specializes in casual outdoor apparel and accessories, has applied for a building permit in Lewiston. As proposed, the 6,500 square-foot store will be built at Nez Perce Plaza near three other new stores that will open in July — Pier 1 Imports, Famous Footwear and Ross Dress for Less. Eddie Bauer's proposal is for a moderately sized retail store similar to Famous Footwear. In comparison, the Pier 1 store is almost 9,000 square feet, and Ross will have a little more than 30,000 square feet. Site plans for the Nez Perce Plaza show spaces for three more stores, two of them in the 30,000 square-foot range.

\* *Note: Projected occupation opportunities are listed in North Central Idaho Table 2 on page 13.*

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## WEB SITE PACKED WITH LABOR MARKET RESOURCES

Idaho's Labor Market Information Web site — <http://lmi.idaho.gov> — is a key source for economic information about Idaho and how it compares to the U.S. on a variety of topics. The Web site has proven essential to businesses, students, job seekers, economic analysts and others. Find out for yourself.



North Central Idaho Table 2: Projected Employment Opportunities

Industry	Avg. Hourly Wage	Required Education
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	\$13.81	Postsecondary vocational training
Bakers	\$10.44	Long-term on-the-job training
Bartenders	\$6.62	Short-term on-the-job training
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	\$13.44	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Carpenters	\$15.50	Long-term on-the-job training
Cashiers	\$7.32	Short-term on-the-job training
Child Care Workers	\$7.68	Short-term on-the-job training
Computer Support Specialists	\$14.26	Associate degree
Construction Laborers	N/A	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Cooks, Restaurant	\$7.51	Long-term on-the-job training
Customer Service Representatives	\$11.72	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Dental Assistants	\$10.47	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Drafter, Engineering & Mapping Technicians, All Other	\$16.69	Associate degree
Electrical & Electronic Technicians & Technologists	\$16.37	Associate degree
Electricians	\$19.51	Long-term on-the-job training
Executive Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	\$14.85	Postsecondary vocational training
Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	\$14.52	Long-term on-the-job training
Health Aides	\$9.24	Short-term on-the-job training
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	\$12.90	Short-term on-the-job training
Janitors & Cleaners	\$9.86	Short-term on-the-job training
Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	\$9.75	Short-term on-the-job training
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$15.04	Long-term on-the-job training
Medical & Health Services Managers	\$32.84	Work experience plus bachelor's or higher degree
Medical Assistants	\$12.78	Short-term on-the-job training
Medical Records & Health Information Technicians	\$12.23	Associate degree
Office Clerks, General	\$11.19	Short-term on-the-job training
Plumbers, Pipefitters & Steamfitters	\$17.09	Long-term on-the-job training
Police Patrol Officers	\$14.48	Long-term on-the-job training
Production Workers	\$12.06	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Receptionists & Information Clerks	\$9.02	Short-term on-the-job training
Recreation Workers	\$9.73	Bachelor's degree
Registered Nurses	\$22.56	Bachelor's degree
Retail Salespersons	\$10.23	N/A
Security Guards	\$7.97	Short-term on-the-job training
Systems analysts	\$23.95	Bachelor's degree
Teachers & Instructors	\$35,512/annual	Bachelor's degree
Tellers	\$9.54	N/A
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$18.19	Moderate-term on-the-job training
Waiters & Waitresses	\$7.20	Short-term on-the-job training
Welders & Cutters	\$12.58	Long-term on-the-job training

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1. What newsletter sections are valuable to you? Please rate the value of each section by circling one from 1 to 5 (1- least valuable, 5= most valuable)

Labor force & nonfarm data	1	2	3	4	5
Regional news	1	2	3	4	5
FYI	1	2	3	4	5
State overview	1	2	3	4	5
Overall newsletter	1	2	3	4	5

2. How often should Idaho Employment be published? (please check one)

☐ Monthly  
☐ Quarterly (includes monthly data)

3. What other economic indicators would you like to see in the newsletter?

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4. Do you use the Labor Market Information Web site — [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov)?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

5. If yes, how often do you go to [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov)?

☐ Daily  
☐ Weekly  
☐ Monthly  
☐ Once in awhile

6. Idaho Employment could be improved by adding the following data or making the following changes:

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**THANK YOU!**